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SIPDIS  
TELEGRAM

February 18, 2004

To: No Action Addressee  
Action: Unknown  
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 434 - UNKNOWN)  
TAGS: PTER, PREL, ASEC, ETTC  
Captions: None  
Subject: COUNTERTERRORISM ACTION GROUP - EMBASSY ABU DHABI  
Ref: None

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UNCLAS ABU DHABI 00434

SIPDIS  
CXABU:  
ACTION: POL  
INFO: RSO AMB DCM P/M ECON

DISSEMINATION: POL  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: AMB:MMWAHBA  
DRAFTED: POL:JFMAYBURY  
CLEARED: ECON:OJOHN

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OO RUEHC RUEHZM RUEHRL RUEHSW RUEHLO RUEHMO  
RUEHBY RUEHFR RUEHKO RUEHRO RUEHMD RUEHOT RUEATRS RUEAIIA  
RUCNFB RHEHNSC RUCAACC  
DE RUEHAD #0434/01 0491415  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3249  
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE  
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0068  
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 0128  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0767  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0352  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0104  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0803  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0270  
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0729  
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 0075  
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0201  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RUCNFB/FBI WASHDC  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUCAACC/USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 ABU DHABI 000434

SIPDIS

NSC FOR GPETERS AND JMYERS, TREASURY FOR ZARATE  
STATE FOR NEA/ARP

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [ASEC](#) [ETTC](#) [TC](#)

SUBJECT: COUNTERTERRORISM ACTION GROUP - EMBASSY ABU  
DHABI

REF: State 14279

¶1. (SBU) Summary: Ambassador convened the Abu Dhabi G-8 Counter-Terrorism Action Group (CTAG) on February 17. Representatives of Great Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Japan, Russia, and Canada attended. Spain and Switzerland also sent representatives. CTAG members discussed their contribution to the UAE's counter-terrorism (CT) training and assistance. There was consensus that Emirati cooperation has been strong, although the UAEG often lacks the staffing and know-how to manage complex issues, such as terrorism financing and money laundering. Several countries have ongoing law enforcement training programs, including Germany's future training of Iraqi police.

¶2. (SBU) There was a discussion about Dubai's role in the Abdul Qadeer Khan case during which the Ambassador emphasized that the revelations about Khan's network only strengthen the U.S. conviction that a regime of strong export controls should be a priority. The group did not agree with a Russian proposal to give a seat on the local CTAG to a UAEG official. The group briefly discussed the bomb attack in Doha that killed the former Chechen leader, and there was consensus that the UAE is not immune to terrorist attacks. End summary.

Attendees

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¶3. (U) The Ambassador hosted a CTAG meeting at the new Embassy on February 17, 2004 per reftel. Attendees were as follows:

USA: Ambassador Marcelle M. Wahba, Econ Chief Oliver John, Pol Chief Joel Maybury  
France: Deputy Chief of Mission Philippe Franc, Police Attache Bernard Vingtdoux  
Germany: Deputy Chief of Mission Christian Buck  
UK: Deputy Chief of Mission Alistair McKenzie, Political Officer Jason Smith  
Japan: Minister-Counselor Isal Dekiba, Pol Chief Kenji Enoshita  
Italy: Political Chief Nicola Minasi  
Canada: Political Chief Isabelle Martin  
Russia: Deputy Chief of Mission Sergey Kuznetsov  
Spain: Deputy Chief of Mission Alberto de la Calle  
Switzerland: Deputy Chief of Mission John Ruhoff

The Australian Embassy did not attend due to a schedule conflict.

Country Presentations:

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¶4. (SBU) USA: The Ambassador opened by noting the outstanding assistance and cooperation with the UAE in the Global War on Terrorism, and reviewed USG activities in the UAE since France hosted the last CTAG in November. In December, the U.S. conducted two courses on export controls, an area the U.S. regards as a high priority, the Ambassador said. The WMD Commodity Identification course focused on the practitioners (customs and police) from most of the emirates, while the Legal Technical Forum was targeted at the Foreign Ministry to assist its legal experts with drafting UAE export controls law. The USG has provided the UAEG with a legislative template for use to draft the export controls law. In February, the Department of Justice/Office of Prosecutorial Development and Training (OPDAT) provided training for the Central Bank, prosecutors, and judges, in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, on investigating and prosecuting money laundering and terrorism finance.

¶5. (SBU) The FBI's Middle East Law Enforcement Training Center (MELETC) in Dubai remains active. MELETC is in the second year of its five-year program in cooperation with Dubai police and the UAE to provide training and technical assistance to GCC members. The FBI will provide assessments to the Interior Ministry in the area of forensic lab and automated fingerprint identification in the spring. The FBI also continues to work with the Central Bank and law enforcement. ATA programs have been offered in the past and will be offered in the future in areas of prevention and counter-terrorism investigation, including interviewing skills and crime-scene investigation.

¶6. (SBU) France: In 2003, 26 French specialists were in the UAE to train 640 Emiratis, including 400 members of the anti-riot units in Dubai, in advance of the IMF/World Bank summit. A total of 385 training days were offered in 2003, mainly on collecting intelligence, intervention, airport security, money laundering, and crisis management. In 2004, the French are planning for 14 programs in Abu Dhabi and Ras Al Khaimah emirates, and with the federal police. The French will work with the Abu Dhabi Intervention Unit on close protection and forged documents, and with the Ras Al Khaimah police on intervention. A week-long training in March with the federal police will focus on crisis management.

¶7. (SBU) Italy: The Italians offered a financial transactions seminar for the Central Bank in November 2003. Italy will conduct training on investigative techniques and offer the UAE police training in close protection, forged documents, financial fraud, and customs controls during 2004.

¶8. (SBU) Germany: The Germans offered two courses in January on drug enforcement for criminal police, and one course in February on crime scene investigation. In January, German Interior Minister Otto Schily visited the UAE and the two governments signed formal agreements on security cooperation, including the exchange of airline passenger data, sky marshals on flights, and acceptance of documents with biometric data. The Germans are not concerned about UAE travelers, but with those who transit through Dubai. In the next two months, the Germans hope to negotiate an agreement to secure better cooperation with the UAE Interior Ministry and the intelligence services. The Germans also want to ease visa restrictions for UAE nationals. German training of Iraqi criminal police in the UAE is set to begin in March with two batches of up to 130 Iraqi police officers at the Al Ain police academy. That will be followed by a training needs assessment and forensics training. Iraqi officers would also receive training on crime scene investigations, fingerprinting, and arson. The training would help UAE capability because the Emiratis plan to have their own police attend the training.

¶9. (U) Japan: Japanese counter-terrorism assistance is focused on East and South Asia.

¶10. (U) Russia: There are no specific CT training programs or cooperation.

¶11. (SBU) Canada: The Canadians have ongoing training in Dubai for GCC members on identification of fraudulent documents. The Judicial Institute of British Columbia offers emergency response training. The Global Maritime Safety Colloquium, a U.S.-Canada sponsored program that includes maritime border controls, will be held in Canada rather than in the region because of problems associated with Israel's participation. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police soon

will have a presence in Dubai.

¶12. (SBU) United Kingdom: The UK has provided ad hoc training and advice on money laundering, and is currently providing extensive customs training on drug trafficking. A delegation will visit the UAE in March to discuss export controls, terrorism financing, and money laundering with ministers. The UK has been trying to urge the Central Bank to play a stronger role in developing inter-agency cooperation within the UAE. The UK discussed two-way staff exchanges between respective financial investigation units; MOU on anti-money laundering cooperation; a visit to the UK of the UAE National Anti-Money Laundering Committee to encourage the UAE to adopt the UK model for FIUs, thus encouraging multi-agency cooperation and developing an agreed program of work for the short- to medium-term; establishing greater links between the UAE (through Dubai Aid City) and the Charity Commission to review regulation of charities in the UAE; possibility of expanding cooperation to the GCC through Dubai Aid City Humanitarian Conference and Exhibition in April.

¶13. (SBU) The UK also is working on secure border initiatives. In collaboration with the British Embassy in Muscat, the UK is offering training for UAE and Omani coast guards aimed at identifying and stopping people and drug traffickers, and encouraging joint approaches to patrolling the Gulf. A requirement for both sides would be the establishment of intelligence units to aid the exchange of intelligence within and between the two countries. In addition, the UK discussed a regional aviation security workshop hosted in Dubai and organized by the Dubai-based Regional Aviation Security Liaison Officer, and targeting representatives from the region. The aim would be to encourage greater cohesion between the countries of the region in their approach to aviation security. The UK also will organize a visit by a high-level delegation in March to engage the UAE authorities on proliferation, terrorism, crime, and money laundering issues. In the one- to five-year time frame, the UK plans to explore training of the UAE military in security borders, possibly in conjunction with Saudi Arabia and Oman. The UK will continue with money laundering training.

¶14. (U) Spain: Spain offered police training in Dubai in 2003 but has no CT cooperation planned for 2004.

¶15. (U) Switzerland: The Swiss do not have any CT training in the UAE.

¶16. (S) Australia: The Australian Embassy had a schedule conflict, but requested in advance of the meeting that we convey to the group that it has formalized the Australian Federal Police present in Dubai. The Australians expect to engage in CT activity in the future.

¶17. (SBU) The Russian member raised the topic of expanding the local CTAG membership to the host government, but several countries did not think such a decision would benefit the group.

¶18. (SBU) The French member asked the Ambassador if the revelations about Khan would have an effect on U.S. programs in the UAE. The Ambassador said the revelations, as laid out in the recent POTUS nonproliferation speech, strengthens the U.S. conviction that export controls are a top priority and will certainly intensify our efforts with the UAE from legislation drafting to implementation.

¶19. (SBU) Comment: A number of G-8 members are firmly engaged in counter-terrorism cooperation with the UAE. Most of the training appears to be focused on money laundering and terrorist financing, and on investigative and crime scene techniques for UAE

police - and in the case of the German training program, on Iraqi criminal police. There was genuine interest from the French and others in USG emphasis on export controls, so we would expect to see this type of training and assistance increase in the coming months. Concerns remain about the capacity of the UAE to manage the complex CT portfolio at all the relevant ministries and Central Bank.

WAHBA